

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:

)	
)	WC Docket No. 13-150
)	
Section 63.71 Application of Verizon New Jersey)	Comp. Pol. File No. 1115
Inc. and Verizon New York to Discontinue)	
Domestic Telecommunications Services)	

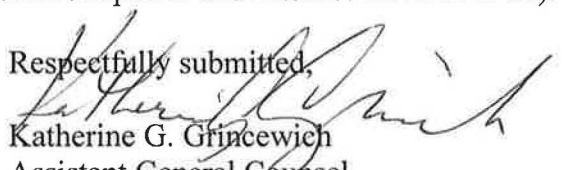
Comments of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ("USCCB") respectfully submits these comments in the above referenced proceeding, released June 28, 2013.

USCCB urges the Commission to extend its time frame for consideration of Verizon's petition, under section 214 of the Telecommunications Act, 47 U.S.C. §214(a), to consider fully how its decision in this case can set a precedent for further post-disaster section 214 decisions, and establish a template for consideration of a future telecommunications network. In this proceeding, the Commission should consider the comments which will be filed in the New York State Public Services Commission's proceeding examining Verizon's Voice Link service, purporting to replace the damaged wireline system, as well as the final decision in that proceeding. Moving from a wireline system, both in the Long Island area and across the country, has serious effects on reliability. Many Catholic dioceses, including the diocese which covers Long Island, use the services of a company which provides mass telephone notifications from Catholic schools to parents for time sensitive and emergency messages. That service was specifically chosen for its reliability -- it uses wireline telephone service. Local voices and examples will need to be heard by the Commission when it considers, on a national basis, the future of the national telecommunications system. Further, as the Commission examines the future of the national wireline telecommunications system, it should reach out to other stakeholders affected by that system -- educational organizations, seniors, religious organizations and others -- to hear their concerns and needs.

USCCB is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia. All active Catholic Bishops in the United States are members of the USCCB. USCCB advocates and promotes the pastoral teachings of the Bishops in such diverse areas as education, health care, social welfare, immigration, civil rights, family life and communications (including support for universal telephone and Internet services to all).

Respectfully submitted,


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United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops

July 29, 2013